

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-06 DODE-00 FEA-01
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R 071604Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 257
INFO USERDA WASHDC
USERDA GERMANTOWN
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION IAWA VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, PARM, NL, UK, GW
SUBJ: ALMELO ENRICHMENT PLANT EXPANSION: DUTCH SAY YES...
AND NO... AGAIN

REF: (A) 76 THE HAGUE 6688 (NOTAL), (B) 76 THE HAGUE 6966
(NOTAL)

1. IN A LETTER TO PARLIAMENT APRIL 5 MINISTER OF ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS LUBBERS SAID HE IS WILLING TO ISSUE THE NECESSARY
LICENSES AND PERMITS FOR THE EXPANSION OF ENRICHMENT CAPACITY
AT URENCO'S URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT AT ALMELO. LUBBER'S
DECISION ALLOWS LICENSING PROCESS, WHICH TAKES SEVERAL
MONTHS TO COMPLETE, TO BEGIN. DECISION TO BEGIN ACTUAL CON-
STRUCTION MUST STILL AWAIT RESPONSE OF FOREIGN MINISTER
VAN DER STOEL ACCORDING TO CABINET COMPROMISE OF DECEMBER
17 (REF (B)) WHICH CALLED FOR LUBBERS TO INVESTIGATE COMM-
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ERCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF EXPANSION AND FOR VAN DER STOEL
TO EXPLORE QUESTION OF SAFEGUARDS ON SALES OF ENRICHED
URANIUM.

2. CAPACITY IN PLACE AND PRESENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT
ALMELO AND CAPENHURST ALLOWS URENCO TO MEET ENRICHMENT CON-
TRACTS THROUGH 1980. CONTRACTS WITH BRAZIL WOULD REQUIRE IN-

CREASE OF 200 TONS SWU CAPACITY IN 1981, WITH EXPANSION EXPECTED TO CONTINUE AT RATE OF 200-600 TONS SWU PER YEAR IN 1982 AND 1983. DROPPING OF BRAZILIAN CONTRACTS WOULD POSTPONE SCHEDULE, BUT WOULD NOT AFFECT URENCO (AS DISTINCT FROM GON, WHICH HAS YET TO MAKE FINAL COMMITMENT) COMMITMENT TO EXPANSION.

3. COMMENT: LUBBER'S DECISION IS A CLEAR STEP TOWARD EXPANSION AT ALMELO IN EYES OF URENCO BUT DOES NOT CHANGE REAL SITUATION. KEY ISSUES ARE STILL DUTCH CONCERN FOR SAFEGUARDS IN FRG-BRAZILIAN DEAL AND STRONG DOMESTIC OPPOSITION TO NUCLEAR INDUSTRY. FINAL DECISION WILL CERTAINLY CONTINUE TO BE POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER ELECTIONS MAY 25 AND, PROBABLY UNTIL AFTER COMPLETION OF CABINET FORMATION, A PROCESS WHICH TOOK 6 MONTHS LAST TIME. WITHOUT GIVING ANY REAL EXPLANATION PM TOLD AMBASSADOR APRIL 6 THAT LUBBERS'S STATEMENT HAD CREATED SOME DIFFICULTIES PRESUMABLY IN LIGHT OF CABINET COMMITTEE PROMISE OF LAST DECEMBER.
MCCLOSKEY

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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